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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Fort Hall Connect- Upgrade of Ross Fork Road project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the project is located at Ross Fork Road, Fort Hall, ID 83203.

The funding is designated to upgrade Ross Fork Road just off Interstate 15 on Exit 80, which is going to be reconstructed and expanded starting in FY 2024. To coincide with the reconstruction of the Exit 80 bridge and interstate exit, Ross Fork Road will be reconstructed to keep up with the traffic flow and safety and to upgrade the ability to enter and exit tribal enterprises and developments. Currently sections of the road are failing and would not be able to maintain with the added traffic of the upgraded exit. The Project will reconstruct, widen and landscape Ross Fork Road into one multi-modal complete street boulevard.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. The goal of the project is to reconstruct a key road connecting I-15 to tribal enterprises. The State of Idaho will be replacing the existing bridge at Exit 80 on I-15 starting construction in 2022. Ross Fork Road is the road the bridge crosses and connects and brings vehicles off the interstate to tribal enterprises as well as services. As currently constructed, this section of road will be insufficient to additional traffic. In addition, I-15 often closes during winter weather due to accidents or treacherous travel. The state often uses exit 80 to direct travelers off the interstate to go around the accidents or dangerous areas, and these two roads are used to detour traffic, often quadrupling the amount of traffic. The project will improve safety for travelers and the community.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson" with a small "M.C." to the right.

Mike Simpson
April 20, 2021